

REMARKS

The claims have been rewritten to clarify them and to overcome the claim rejections under 35 USC §112.

It is submitted that the claims, as amended, are clearly patentably distinguished from the cited references.

Caronni (U.S. 5,822,434) describes a scheme to allow two computers on a network to upgrade from a non-secured session to a secured session. The scheme utilizes an access control list (ACL) in each computer. Initially, the ACLs of both computers contain a "speak-in-the-clear" entry. At the same time, a certificate discover protocol (CDP) is initiated by one of the computers. If the CDP successful, both computers simultaneously change their ACL settings to reflect that all communications are to be encrypted. (Column 2, lines 57-67).

Thus, it can be seen that in Caronni the computers have just two states: a "speak-in-the-clear" (non-encrypting) state and an encrypting state. There is clearly no suggestion in Caronni of the three states as claimed in the new claim 11. Moreover, there is clearly no suggestion in Caronni of performing a method comprising a sequence of steps (a) - (f) as claimed in the new claim 11.

Arrow (U.S. 6,226,751) describes a method for configuring a virtual private network (VPN). However, there is clearly no suggestion in Arrow of the three states as claimed in the new claim 11. Moreover, there is clearly no suggestion in Arrow of performing the sequence of method steps as claimed in the new claim 11. Hence even if the teachings of Caronni and Arrow are combined they would clearly not suggest the present invention to one skilled in the art.

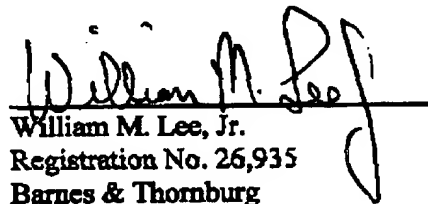
Similar arguments apply to new apparatus claim 15. In particular, it is submitted that there is no suggestion in Caronni or Arrow of a system with means for setting the system into the three distinct modes as specified in claim 15.

New claim 19 represents original claim 5 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. It is submitted that this claim is therefore clearly allowable, as indicated in the office action.

In summary, it is submitted that this application is now clearly in order for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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